



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

bution to the class of literature which it represents, and that it advocates a method of insurance from which much is to be hoped. If it errs in claiming too much, in failing to recognize that the principle of mutuality requires for its successful operation a certain stage of individual and social development not everywhere reached, and that until that stage is reached other principles must be called into action, it is due perhaps to the clearness with which the author sees particular advantages and his enthusiasm in presenting them. Surely any earnest and fairly successful attempt to deal with the great problem of preventing the laborer, either in his old age or in out-of-work periods, from becoming dependent upon the uncertain assistance of his friends or upon public relief, deserves a hearty welcome. And such the present work must be considered.

I. W. HOWERTH.

The Coming Individualism. By A. EGMONT HAKE and O. E. WESSLAU. Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co., 1895. 8vo. pp. xi+347.

THE uninitiated reader of this book is likely to feel some curiosity as to how it was produced. The names of A. Egmont Hake and O. E. Wesslau appear on the title-page as if they were the joint authors. Mr. Hake alone signs the dedication, but he words it as if speaking for both. At the end of the volume, under the same cover, and comprising about one-tenth of the whole, is a monograph on Municipal Government by Francis Fletcher-Vane. This has a title-page of its own, and there is no reference to it on the back of the book, or on the main title-page; but, although there is no statement concerning its connection with the rest, it fits, in somewhat awkward fashion, into the general plan, is paged continuously with what precedes, and would seem to have been written for the closing chapter. It contains, in fact, a hint that appears to explain the origin of the work. The author of this final portion says, p. 346: ". . . I am not at all hopeful of the ultimate effect of democracy based on per head election. That under any circumstances it is an experiment, untried in its present form, cannot too often be repeated. Nevertheless, though not hopeful, it has appeared right to some of us to enter the lists, not with the object of making things worse, as some do, but rather with the intention, however humble may be our part, of making things better."

It seems, therefore, that the book is intended to serve an immediate practical purpose, which is to make the English people stop and think before proceeding further in the direction of socialism. One of its longest chapters is devoted to a discussion of the "Errors of Democracy." In the dedication the hope of influencing parliament is plainly expressed. Taking these things together with the above quotation, the reader will probably conclude that he has before him the result of the concerted effort of some three men who believe it their duty to check, if possible, the wild career of the British *demos*.

As to the matter of the work, it is mainly a pretty earnest threshing-over of old straw. The argument is that, beginning with the Factory Acts, the spirit of democracy has led the British people to depart seriously from the principle of individualism, which is the mainspring of progress. The burden of the authors' cry is the existing socialism rather than "the coming individualism;" the latter is scarcely discussed at all. For the ills which Great Britain is supposed to have brought on herself by socialistic legislation the remedy proposed is simply *laissez faire* without limit. It is, however, most unlikely that such policies as "free trade in drink" and "free trade in amusements" would gain much favor from the British public. Neither should one imagine, if he thinks this same public possessed of a democratic devil and engaged in a crazy search for Utopia, that he can save it by persuading it to retrace its steps. It is too self-confident and intractable for that.

The dedication is "To Robert Armstrong Yerburgh, Esq., M. P., President of the Agricultural Banks Association," whose sympathy and influence in favor of the coming individualism are confidently relied upon by the authors. It is to be feared that he has disappointed them bitterly. Recent Associated Press reports say: "Mr. Robert A. Yerburgh, member of parliament for Chester, has commenced with the draft of a scheme to carry out a protectionist pet idea, a national storage for wheat for British husbandry and a reservoir for food stuff in event of war."

To those not already familiar with the arguments that may be marshaled by the individualist against socialism, this book is well worth reading. To those who know them, while it may cast no new light on the matter, it will be saved from becoming tiresome by its evident earnestness and sincerity.

GEORGE P. GARRISON.